GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3101
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
INDIAN ARTISANS LIVING ILLEGALLY IN KUWAIT AND UAE
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Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian artisans who were living illegally in Kuwait and U.A.E. sent back;

(b) the number of artisans still living there; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal migration of Indian artisans to these countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): According to the information received from the Indian Missions, approximately 2.80 lakh and 8.00 lakh Indian workers were working in Kuwait and UAE respectively.While no separate record of the Indian artisans in these countries is kept, majority of these workers belong to the un-skilled or semi-skilled category and had migrated to these countries for contractual employment on the basis of valid documents. It is not known how many of them are living illegally. However, the Indian Embassy in Kuwait had issued 1364 Emergency Travel Documents during the last two years and the Embassy of India in UAE had issued 228 Emergency Certificates during the last three years to the Indian nationals to facilitate their travel back to India. Some of the persons, to whom these emergency certificates were issued, were staying in these two countries illegally.

(c): The steps taken/being taken to prevent illegal emigration of Indian workers include scrutiny of the travel documents including the employment contracts by the Protectors of Emigrants, before grant of emigration clearance, and further scrutiny of these documents by the immigration authorities at the airports with the help of ultra violet lamp, magnifying glass and questionable document examiner.

State Governments have also been requested to issue instructions right up to the police station level to keep a strict vigil on the activities of the unauthorised agents.